

Name of the test:

Microalbumin test

Alternative name(s) of the test:

Urine albumin/creatinine ratio test

What this test is used for:

This test detects albumin in the urine and measures the albumin/creatinine ratio.

Albumin is a protein which is found in the blood and normally it should not be present in the urine. However, when kidneys are damaged, albumin starts to appear in the urine. In fact, it is one of the first signs of a kidney damage. Therefore, the microalbumin test can be used to detect a kidney damage in the early stages.

It is possible to test only albumin in the urine, but testing both creatinine and albumin, and measuring the albumin/creatinine ratio increases the accuracy of the test.

When the test is ordered:

The microalbumin test is ordered, when a patient has a high risk of a kidney damage. For example, in patients with diabetes or hypertension, this test is often performed to detect a kidney damage in the early stages.

How this test is performed:

A urine sample is collected.

How to prepare for the test:

No preparation is required.

Interpretation of results:

Normally, albumin should not be present in the urine. If albumin is detected in the sample, it may be an indicator of a kidney damage. However, there are conditions, which cause false positive results, so it is important to consult a doctor in order to correctly interpret the results.